additional storage capacity for the forthcoming Kharif season. FCI has given seven years guarantee for creation of additional storage capacity of 61 lakh tonnes in four major procuring States. The field officers of FCI have also been delegated full powers for hiring of storage capacity as and when necessary.

Before the commencement of each Kharif Marketing Season, consultations are held with the concerned State Governments and FCI officials with a view to ensuring smooth procurement of paddy/ rice. A meeting was held with the Food Secretaries of major procuring States and FCI officials in this regard on June 21, 2001. Another meeting is scheduled to be held on August 16, 2001. Adequate number of purchase centres will be opened in consultation with the State Governments. Wide publicity will be given about procurement prices, FAQ Specifications and purchase centres. In order to monitor closely the Minimum Support Prices Scheme, special Control Rooms will be set up in the FCI at its Headquarters and Regional Offices.

Supply of Food Items to BPL Population in Himachal Pradesh

*264. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat, rice, sugar and other items are being supplied through PDS at reasonable rates for the people living Below Poverty Line in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Sate Government, there are 2,98,181 families living below the poverty line (BPL) in Himachal Pradesh, including 78,700 families identified under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. The scale and rates at which wheat, rice, sugar and other items are being supplied to these families under PDS are as under:

S. No.	Category of families	Commodity	Scale of issue	Consumer issue price per kg.
1.	BPL	wheat	10 kgs per family per month	Rs. 5.15
		rice	15 kgs per family per month	Rs. 6.90
2.	Antyodaya families	wheat rice	10 kgs per family per month	Rs. 2.00
			15 kgs per family per month	Rs. 3.00

In addition to the above, the following items as available to the families living above the poverty line (APL) are also being supplied to BPL families through PDS:—

Wheat or wheat atta—12 kgs per head per month at landed cost ranging from Rs. 7.16/- to 7.25/- per kg for wheat and Rs. 7.50/- to Rs. 7.60/- per kg for wheat atta.

Levy sugar—700 grams per head per month @Rs. 13.25 per kg.

Edible Oil—2 kgs for a family upto 5 members and 3 kgs for a family above 5 members @Rs. 25.50 to Rs. 25.70 per kg.

Kerosene Oil—In subsidized areas—DBC holders—5 litres, Single cylinder holders—10 litres, without LPG—25 litres

In non-subsidized areas—DBC holders—Nil, Single Cylinder holder—3 litres, without LPG—20 litres

@Rs. 7.50 to 9.00 per litre.

Internet services in M.P.

†*265. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.